

The background of the entire page is an abstract mosaic composed of numerous small, irregular polygonal shapes. The colors are predominantly dark, including deep blues, blacks, and greys, which are interspersed with vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows. The overall effect is a dense, textured pattern that resembles a modern art installation or a digital collage.

**Whitney Museum of American Art
at Philip Morris**

**the bride who became frightened
when she saw life open:**
a dream narrative in seven voices

by alva rogers

42

PERFORMANCE ON FORTY SECOND

**Whitney Museum of American Art
at Philip Morris**

Performance on 42nd
presents

**the bride who became frightened
when she saw life open:**

a dream narrative in seven voices

by alva rogers

October 6, 1998

A staged reading of a work-in-progress inspired by
Frida Kahlo's painting of the same name.

CAST

frida kahlo.....lizzy davis
the bride.....alva rogers
bridesmaid black.....dee ann weir
bridesmaid green.....kei arita
bridesmaid yellow.....sue jin song
bridesmaid red.....eva mantell
bridesmaid brown.....nehassaiu de gannes

Dresses donated by Opal White.

Special thanks to the many individuals who have helped with the research and writing of this play: Tanya Barfield, Gordon Chambers, Ellie Covan, Nilo Cruz, Martin Epstein, Talia Field, Alden Gerwartz, Thelma Golden, Farah Griffin, John Hanhardt, Frederick B. Henry, Maria Hinojosa, bell hooks, Scott Macauley, Carol Meyer, Bruce Monroe, Sybille Pearson, Aisha Rahman, F.J. Rogers, F. Joseph Rogers, Accra Shepp, John Simon, Coreen Simpson, Debra Singer and the staff of the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, Sarah Schlesinger, Paula Vogel, my colleagues in the Creative Writing Program at Brown University, my illustrious cast, and all of the women who shared their joys, fears, dreams, fantasies, and nightmares.

BIOGRAPHIES

kei arita (bridesmaid green) has recently performed in productions of *10,000 KM*, *Gilgamesh*, *The Visit*, *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, and *Julius Caesar*. Originally from Tokyo, she will complete a BFA from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts this winter.

lizzy davis (frida kahlo) is a performer and educator. She recently graduated from Brown University with a degree in Theater Arts. Her experience includes study in Bali, Indonesia, and participation in Anna Deveare Smith's Institute on the Arts and Civic Dialogue. Davis was last seen in *The Song of Seven Cities*, directed by Peter Dubois, and currently works as an actor/teacher with the Creative Arts Team.

nehassaiu de gannes (bridesmaid brown) has performed at the Perishable Theatre, Trinity Repertory Company, and Brown University, where she received an MFA in Creative Writing. Her poetry has been published in *Callaloo*, *American Poetry Review*, and *Painted Bride Quarterly*.

eva mantell (bridesmaid red) has produced videos, sculpture, and performance work that has been seen at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center's Clocktower Gallery, and the Knitting Factory. She is currently working on a time-specific narrative created by projecting images onto her pregnant stomach.

alva rogers (the bride) has written for and performed in projects at numerous New York venues including The Kitchen, Central Park's SummerStage, P.S. 122, and Dixon Place, and has also participated in a variety of theatrical and musical events for television, film, and radio. Her film roles include the lead in Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust*, and appearances in Spike Lee's *School Daze* and Shu Lea Cheang's *Fresh Kill*. Rogers received a MFA in Creative Writing from Brown University (1998) and a MFA in Musical Theater Writing from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts (1995). Her play *the whole wide world* was produced in the 1998 Sternberg New Plays Festival at Trinity Repertory Theatre and was directed by Peter Dubois, artistic director of the Perseverance Theatre. This past July, *the doll plays* received a workshop production at the University of Massachusetts' New World Theater Playlab, and was co-directed and designed by Heather Henson, with masks and shadow puppets by Kara Walker and period dolls created by Holly Laws. Her performances, musical compositions, and sound installations have been presented in festivals nationwide, including the Spoleto Festival USA and the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Next Wave Festival. She received a 1995 New York Dance and Performance "Bessie" Award as a co-creator of the stage adaptation of the radio play *Stained*.

sue jin song (bridesmaid yellow) recently matriculated from New York University's Graduate Acting Program. Her favorite roles are Natasha from *Three Sisters* and Maud/Victoria from *Cloud Nine*. She is currently developing a new piece with the Van Lier Fellows at New York Theatre Workshop.

dee ann weir (bridesmaid black) recently received her MFA from Trinity Repertory Conservatory. Some of her favorite roles are Viola in *Twelfth Night*, Diana in *All's Well that Ends Well*, and Susan in *Vinegar Tom*. Weir is also a stage combat and fight choreographer.

No unauthorized photography, audio-, or videotaping is permitted.

Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris

120 Park Avenue at 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
(917)663-2453

UPCOMING EVENTS: Both concerts at 7:30 pm.

November 19: Ned Rothenberg's SYNC

December 10: Sussan Deyhim

Performance on 42nd is a program of the Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris, offering free music, dance, and theater performances to the public.

Production Staff

Elizabeth Chaney *Lighting Designer*
James La Saund *Technician*
Paula Court *Photographer*
Character Generators Inc. *Video Documentation*

Whitney Museum of American Art at Philip Morris Staff

Thelma Golden *Curator and Director of Branches*
Eugenie Tsai *Associate Curator and Curator of Branches*
Debra Singer *Manager and Producer, Performance on 42nd*
Min Lee *Gallery Assistant, Exhibitions*
Jeff Hopkins *Gallery Coordinator, Education*

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